

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Master of Accounting (MAcc) to be Offered in Des Moines
University of Northern Iowa
Date: November 6, 2000

Recommended Action:

Receive the informational report on UNI's Master of Accounting (MAcc) program to be offered in Des Moines.

Executive Summary:

Board policy requires informational reports on new program locations. The University of Northern Iowa's College of Business Administration, through its Division of Continuing Education and Special Programs, is offering the Master of Accounting degree in Des Moines, Iowa. The program will be offered beginning Spring 2001, in cooperation with the Des Moines Higher Education Center.

Effective January 2001, Certified Public Accountant (CPA) candidates in Iowa and many other states will be required to have 150 college credit hours. Many future CPAs will elect to earn a master's degree to meet this requirement and it is expected that the MA degree in Accounting will soon become the norm for CPAs. The most likely candidates for the program are UNI Accounting graduates now working in the Des Moines area.

This new program location will be reported to the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education in December.



Robert J. Barak

Approved: 

Frank J. Stork

Program Requirements

The Master of Accounting program is offered on the non-thesis option. A minimum of 30 semester hours is required, of which a minimum of 21 hours must be at the 200-level. Research papers are required as an integral component of most graduate-level courses.

I. 15 Accounting Hours

- A. Financial Accounting Theory: 120:229 (3) 3 hours
- B. One research course to be selected from the following: 3 hours
 - Applied Professional Research: 120:214 (3)
 - Tax Research and Planning: 120:243 (3)
- C. Accounting electives to be selected from the following. 9 hours
 - Six (6) of the hours must be 200-level courses:
 - Advanced Accounting: 120:135g (3)
 - Government and Not-for-Profit Accounting 120:139g (3)
 - Advanced Cost: 120:141g (3)
 - Advanced Accounting Systems: 120:236 (3)
 - Advanced Auditing: 120:240 (3)
 - Advanced Tax Topics: 120:242 (3)
 - Cost Management: 120:261 (3)
 - Seminar in Contemporary Issues in Accounting 120:289 (3)
 - Applied Professional Research: 120:214 (3) or Tax Research and Planning: 120:243 (3) (if not taken as required research course in I.B.)

II. 15 Hours Outside of Accounting

- A. Communication Component - Select one course from the following, or select another course approved by the Department of Accounting: 3 hours
 - Business Communications II: 150:114g (3)
 - Topics in Communication: 150:280 (3)
 - Organizational Cultures and Communications: 48C:134g (3)
 - Negotiation Processes and Techniques: 48C:137g (3)
 - Listening: 48C:141g (2)
 - Intercultural Communications: 48C:151g (3)
 - Gender Issues in Communications: 48C:153g (3)
- B. Information Technology Component 3 hours
 - MIS Seminar: 150:249 (3)
 - (This requirement also may be satisfied by taking Advanced Accounting Systems: 120:236; however, students still must take 15 hours outside of accounting.)

C. International Business Component - Select one course from the following: 3 hours

International Financial Management: 160:158g (3)
International Economics: 920:136g (3)
International Financial Economics: 920:175g (3)

(This requirement is met if the student holds an International Business Certificate. If the student has a minor in a foreign language, the program coordinator will determine whether this requirement is met. If this requirement is met because of an International Business Certificate or minor in a foreign language, three (3) hours of other electives must be taken.)

D. Other Graduate Electives 6 hours
Students may select from:

Any 200-level, non-accounting, CBA courses listed in the Hours Outside of Accounting component, or Public Policy courses (for those interested in governmental/not-for-profit sector) listed below:

Public Finance: 920:117g (3)
Cost Benefit Analysis: 920:125g (3)
Organization of American Industry: 920:135g (3)
Urban and Regional Economics: 920:148g (3)
Public Organizations: 940:153g (3)
Public Budgeting: 940:172g (3)
Public Policy Analysis: 940:173g (3)
Public Personnel Administration: 940:174g (3)
History and US Public Policy: 960:225 (3)

III. Additional requirement

Experiential Learning - Students satisfy this requirement by completing an experiential learning experience as pre-approved by the Department of Accounting

30 hours

IV. Please provide a listing of other Iowa institutions (public and private) where identical or similar programs are offered currently at the same general location (eg, Des Moines area).

1. It is the understanding at UNI that Drake University began a program in January 2000.

- V. Please provide an account of implications for potential duplication of the program with programs in other Iowa institutions located in the same area.

UNI is proposing to offer the program in cooperation with the Des Moines Higher Education Center. The most likely candidates for the program are likely to be UNI undergraduate accounting majors working in the Des Moines area.

- VI. Please provide a statement regarding any special need for the program in the new location.

Effective January 2001, CPA candidates in Iowa, and many other states, will be required to have 150 college credit hours. Many future CPAs will elect to earn a masters degree to meet this requirement.

- VII. Please provide a description of the anticipated demand for the program from students now enrolled or who might be enrolled at the new location.

UNI will be exploring the extent of interest in the program, and will offer the program only if there are sufficient students interested. There have been some inquiries from UNI alumni about the program.

- VIII. Please provide a description of employment possibilities for graduates of the proposed program in the area, state, region, and nation.

There continues to be a strong demand for CPAs. Although a masters degree is not currently required, it will soon become the norm for professional accountants.

- IX. Please provide copies of correspondence indicating that discussions about the new offering have taken place with other colleges and universities in the area to be served.

Attached is a copy of a letter from Dr. Gerald Smith, Head of the Department of Accounting at UNI, to Dr. Patrick Heaston of Drake University.



September 20, 2000

Dr. Patrick H. Heaston, Director
School of Accounting
Drake University
Des Moines, IA 50311-4505

Dear Pat:

As you are aware, UNI was approved to offer a Master of Accounting degree effective with the Fall 2000 semester. This degree program has been implemented.

UNI is planning to assess the demand for its MAcc program in the Des Moines area. Courses would be offered in conjunction with the Des Moines Higher Education Center. Our next step is to secure the approval of the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education. If there is sufficient interest we plan to offer a course in the Spring 2001 semester.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this notification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerald Smith".

Gerald Smith
Professor and Head

cc: Heaston-Drake

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Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0127

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